

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are presently active in this case.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Donovan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,075,982, herein "Donovan") in view of Kennedy, III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,009,330, herein "Kennedy") and Kantola et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,230,020, herein "Kantola"). Claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Donovan in view of Kennedy, Kantola and Walker (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,863) and further in view of Kasai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,560, herein "Kasai"). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Donovan in view of Kennedy, Kantola, Walker and Kasai and in further view of Alvesalo (U.S. Patent No. 5,384,824). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Donovan in view of Kennedy and Kantola and further in view of Walker. Claims 6 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Donovan in view of Kennedy and Kantola and further in view of Joensuu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,966,653, herein "Joensuu"). Claims 7, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Donovan in view of Kennedy and Kantola and further in view of Kasai. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Donovan in view of Kennedy and Kantola and further in view of Kasai and Sjodin (U.S. Patent No. 6,631,140). Claims 10 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Donovan in view of Kennedy and Kantola and further in view of Kasai and Joensuu.

In response to the rejections of Claim 1 and the rejection of Claims 7, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections and traverse the rejections. Applicants respectfully submit that the reference Kantola does not

qualify as prior art against the present Application. The present Application has a U.S. filing date of January 29, 2001 and is a national stage application filed under 35 U.S.C. §371 of a PCT application, with the international filing date of December 2, 1998. In accordance with 35 U.S.C. §371(c)(2), the U.S. national stage filing is an English translation of the PCT application. Thus, there is no need to submit a certified English translation to establish entitlement to the priority date of December 2, 1998.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Kantola reference from consideration, since Kantola is not prior art because it has a 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) date of December 8, 1999, which is well after December of 1998. Therefore, all outstanding prior art rejections which rely on Kantola must be withdrawn.

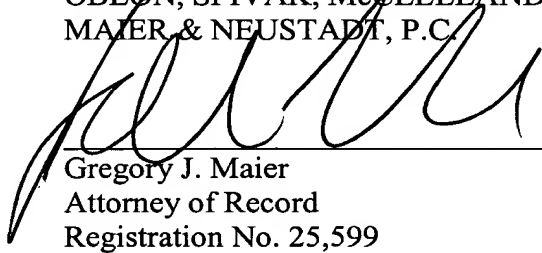
In response to the remaining rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants respectfully submit that since independent Claims 1 and 7 are believed to patentably distinct over the applied references, dependent Claims 2-6 and 8-14 are also believed to be patentable. Accordingly Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration these rejections.

Consequently, in view of the present Request for Reconsideration, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-14 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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